

## Emergency Support Function #4- Firefighting

### ESF Coordinator

Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency  
Services

### Primary Agencies

Columbus Fire/Rescue  
Park City Fire District  
Absarokee Fire District  
Molt Volunteer Fire Co.  
Nye VFD  
Rapelje Volunteer Fire Co.  
Broadview VFD

### Support Agencies

Stillwater County GIS Program  
National Weather Service (NWS)  
Montana Department of Natural Resources (DNRC)  
U.S. Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Billings Interagency Dispatch Center (Expanded  
Dispatch)  
Billings Interagency Wildfire Cache  
Stillwater County Road & Bridge

## Introduction

### Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #4 – Firefighting provides county support to municipal departments and rural fire protection agencies including fire companies, fire districts and volunteer fire departments for the detection and suppression of wildland, rural and urban fires occurring within Stillwater County.

### Scope

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ESF #4—Firefighting is the most active of the ESFs in this plan to support incident response within Stillwater County due to the frequency and severity of fire season.

When taking actions under ESF #4 the DES Coordinator may be referred to as the “County Fire Warden”. The DES Coordinator was appointed County Fire Warden by resolution and charged with assisting rural Stillwater County Fire Chiefs with the necessary supplies and services to facilitate County rural fire management. Fire Warden duties will include acting as a liaison between local, state and federal agencies to coordinate training and wildland and grassland fire prevention, detection, suppression, investigation and mitigation.

The ESF #4 Coordinator is Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services (SC DES) as SC DES is also in charge of the County Rural Fire Program and serves as the County Fire Warden.

## Policies

**Table 4-1. Policies**

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESF #4 is activated by SC DES upon advisement of Authority Having Jurisdiction or notification of a potential or actual incident or event that requires a coordinated response and support.</li> <li>• ICS and NIMS principles will be followed for all emergencies or disasters.</li> <li>• Actions initiated under ESF #4 are coordinated and conducted cooperatively with federal, state, and local landowners, agencies and incident management officials and with private entities as required.</li> <li>• Firefighters and resources brought in from other agencies or companies shall check in with the proper authority. Once checked in they are under the control of the IC of this incident according to ICS and NIMS.</li> <li>• Firefighters and resources brought in from other agencies or companies which have their own SOPs will follow the more stringent of SOPs when completing their assignment in Stillwater County.</li> <li>• Payment or reimbursement may be provided through state, federal programs or other sources, as available.</li> </ul>
Wildland Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stillwater County has three standing incident objectives on fires, they are:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Life Safety of Responders and the Public</li> <li>2. Incident Stabilization</li> <li>3. Protection of Property</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Processes and procedures established by the Montana DNRC/Stillwater County Cooperative Agreement (COOP Agreement) constitute the most detailed and accurate document in Stillwater County related to wildfire response and supersedes ESF #4 in case of any conflicting language.</li> </ul>
Structure Fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structural fire protection is not present everywhere within Stillwater County. All fires receive a response to keep them from spreading to a wildland fire.</li> <li>• The County's role in an ESF #4 activation is to locate resources requested by the Incident Commander, determine logistics required to mobilize the resource to the fire and support the firefighters with logistical support and needs (food, supplies etc) as requested by the Incident Commander.</li> <li>• When a fire response agency is called to a structure fire that exceeds their capabilities, equipment, personnel, resources or training additional resources may be brought to bear first by requesting mutual aid through (1) existing department mutual aid agreements, then (2) Stillwater county-wide mutual aid agreement, then (3) the County Fire Warden utilizing county-county mutual aid agreements (this constitutes activation of ESF #4) or (4) Montana Mutual Aid</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On structure fires, the requesting fire agency is responsible for any costs when requesting the Fire Warden to locate resources, personnel, equipment or other support materials needed to suppress the fire.</li> </ul>
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## Concept of Operations & Response Structure

### General

ESF #4 operates under the direction of SC DES. SC DES will direct staff and support agencies based upon the functional areas described in ESF #4. SC DES will identify and provide a coordinator based on the assistance needed for an ESF #4 incident. When an incident requires assistance from more than one of the ESF #4 functions, SC DES provides the regional point of contact and represents ESF #4 in its dealings with any work at the Emergency Operations Center.

ESF #4 is scalable to meet the specific needs of each incident, based upon the nature and magnitude of the event and the availability of local resources. When ESF #4 assistance involves only one functional area of ESF #4 the agency in charge of that functional area may provide an individual to fill the coordinator function as the point of contact to represent ESF #4 in its dealings with any Unified Coordination Group. ESF #4 will have staff on duty at the Joint Field Office (JFO) as needed, for the duration of the emergency response period.

Support agencies will provide assistance under the Incident Command System in place to the ESF Coordinator and Primary Agencies in line with their agency mission and functions.

**Table 4-2. Functional Categories, Actions and Responsibilities**

	Functional Area Agency	Actions and Responsibilities
General	SC DES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SC DES activates ESF #4 and notifies required personnel or individuals of activation.</li> <li>SC DES, as the ESF #4 Coordinator provides information to the Unified Coordination Group through the chain of command for the duration of the incident.</li> <li>SC DES coordinates primary and support agencies for planning and operational needs.</li> <li>SC DES coordinates resolution of conflicting operational demands for fire response resources</li> <li>All personnel shall follow ICS and NIMS principles while executing their duties associated with ESF #4.</li> </ul>
Wildland Fire	SC DES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Processes and procedures established by the Montana DNRC/ Stillwater County Cooperative Agreement (COOP Agreement) constitute the most detailed and accurate document in Stillwater County related to wildfire response</li> </ul>

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Structure Fire	Fire Agency Responsible for the Response Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manages and coordinates structure fire resources coming in from out of area (check-in/ staging).</li><li>• Works with SC DES to request logistical support needs for fire resources to maintain operational readiness.</li><li>• Conducts operations within the training and capabilities of present responders.</li><li>• Communicates with the ESF Coordinator to ensure knowledge and needs of fire operations are communicated and addressed during the planning cycle and operational periods.</li><li>• Provides incident and situational reports and assessments to SC DES as needed</li></ul>
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### Signatures

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We, the undersigned, understand our roles and responsibilities as outline in ESF #4.

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Carol Arkell  
Stillwater County Disaster and Emergency Services

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Rich Cowger Fire Chief  
Columbus Fire/Rescue Department

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Bryan Bartholmew, Chief  
Park City Fire District

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Cody Keller, Chief  
Absarokee Fire Department

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Duane Berke, Chief  
Molt Fire Department

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Dave Russell, Chief  
Nye Fire Department

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Erv Hossfeld, Chief  
Rapelje Fire Department

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Travis Jones, Chief  
Broadview Fire District